

ABSTRACT

5 An asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) digital document delivery system is
provided. A customer premise unit is configured to permit a customer to order
and receive a data stream. A buffer is coupled to the customer premise unit to
store the data stream before transmitting the data stream to a customer. A server
includes digital documents stored thereon for delivery to customers through a
10 switched ATM network. A control mechanism is employed to control a data rate of
the data stream between the server and the buffer to ensure maintenance of a
steady data stream from the customer premise unit to a customer during a loss of
a physical layer between the server and the customer premise unit.